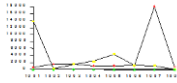


WEB 08



REPUBLIC OF GHANA



WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

Ghana Health Service / Ministry of Health

For Week 08 of 2015 (Week ending 22 February, 2015)



Highlights of the week:

- ➔ Timeliness and completeness of reporting by regions for the week were both 100%.
- ➔ Reported Cholera Outbreak in Nsawam-Adoagyiri, Eastern Region.
- ➔ Suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) since April 2014 are 135

Editorial Board

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This bulletin is a summary of reported cases of epidemic prone diseases, and other priority conditions/events of national and international concern within the framework of the Second Edition Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR). Case fatality and attack rates of these events are calculated, and comparative analysis made. The primary objective is to give regular feedback to regions and districts, and also provide epidemiologic data to other stakeholders for action.

2.0 TIMELINESS AND COMPLETENESS OF REPORTING

Timeliness and completeness rates of reporting for the week under review were all 100%.

3.0 WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION; CASES AND DEATHS-WEEK 08

The total all-cause weekly notifiable diseases morbidity for the week (as per Weekly Summary Reporting Form) was 1,521 cases with five (5) deaths including four (4) maternal deaths. This represents a decrease of about 23.6% in the number of cases detected compared to the previous week. Acute watery diarrhoea above 5 years were the highest proportion of cases reported and contributed 81.9% of the notifiable diseases during the week under review (See Annex 1, summary of reported cases/death).

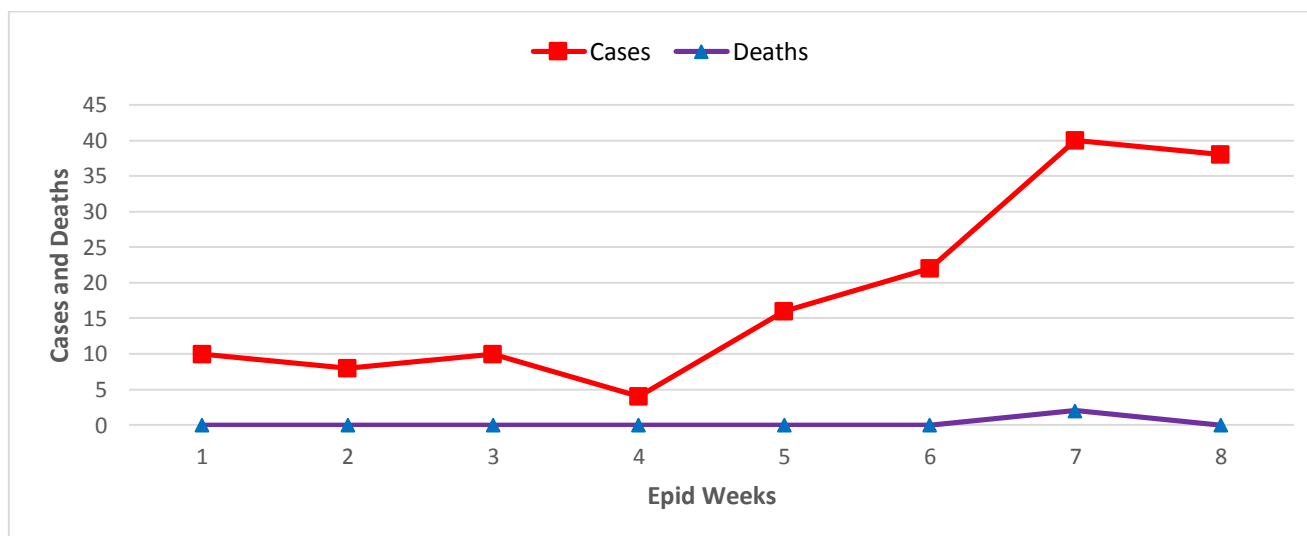
4.0 CHOLERA OUTBREAKS

During week 8 of 2015 (16-22 February 2015), there was a slight decrease in cholera incidence; 38 new cholera cases with no death were reported from Greater Accra, Eastern and Western Regions. New outbreak reported from Nsawam-Adoagyiri District in the Eastern was linked to a prayer camp near Nsawam Township.

[Table 1 and Fig 1]. Between week 1 and 8 of 2015, a total of 148 cholera cases with two (2) deaths have been reported.

Table 1: Cholera Cases and Deaths by Region, Ghana, Week 08, 2015

Region	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)	Districts Reporting
Ashanti	0	0	-	Nil
Brong-Ahafo	0	0	-	Nil
Central	0	0	-	Nil
Eastern	15	0	0.0	Nsawam-Adoagyiri
Greater Accra	18	0	0.0	Accra Metro
Northern	0	0	0.0	Nil
Upper East	0	0	-	Nil
Upper West	0	0	-	Nil
Volta	0	0	-	Nil
Western	5	0	0.0	Sekondi-Takoradi, Mpohor
Total (Ghana)	38	0	0.0	4

Fig 1: Weekly Trend in Cholera Cases and Deaths, Ghana, Week 1- 8, 2015

5.0 EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

5.1 GLOBAL SITUATION

According to the WHO SitRep, a total of 99 new confirmed cases reported in the week ending 22 February 2015: 35 in Guinea, one (1) in Liberia, and 63 in Sierra Leone.

5.2 EBOLA SITUATION IN GHANA

In Ghana, all 135 suspected Ebola cases tested negative for Ebola at Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) as of 22 February, 2015. Currently there is no confirmed case of Ebola reported in Ghana.

6.0 MENINGITIS

During the week, 20 cases of meningitis with one (1) death (CFR: 5.0%) were reported from six (6) Districts in three regions. Upper West reported eighteen (18) cases with one death, Brong-Ahafo; one case with no death and Ashanti reported one case with no death. Lumbar puncture rate was 100%. Pastorex test was positive for W135 and S. Pneumonia. No district reached Alert or Epidemic threshold

7.0 MEASLES

During the week under review, nine suspected measles cases with no death were reported from nine districts in six regions.

8.0 INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS

A total of 135 cases with no death was reported during the reporting week through the IDSR weekly reporting system. All cases were from two districts in Ashanti Region.

9.0 YELLOW FEVER

During week 8, a total of five (5) suspected cases with no death were reported from five districts in four regions. Samples were sent to the NPHRL with results pending.

10.0 AFP (SUSPECTED POLIOMYELITIS)

Two (2) AFP cases were reported from Banda and Bia West districts in the Brong-Ahafo and Western Region during the week under review. A cumulative of 24 cases have been reported from all districts as at week 08. All the stool specimens taken from the cases and investigated at the National Polio Laboratory (NMIMR) have tested negative for wild polio virus.

11.0 INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS

During the week, a total of 135 cases were reported as compared to 129 cases the previous week. Out of the 135 cases, 41 had specimens collected and sent to the laboratory. One sample tested positive for Influenza B virus.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- All regions, districts, health facilities and the points of entry (ground crossing, airport and seaport) should strengthen/enhance surveillance on Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers. Blood specimens from suspected cases should be taken, placed in viral transport medium (VTM) and sent to NMIMR for laboratory investigations.
- All regions and districts are requested to have updated preparedness and response plans for cholera; Enhance surveillance on acute watery diarrhoea by collecting stool specimens or rectal swabs for laboratory investigations; Follow up and trace the contacts of confirmed cases; Conduct public education on preventive measures; Undertake advocacy role with the relevant stakeholders to prevent or respond to cholera.
- Regions are urged to continue surveillance on meningitis and update preparedness and response plans for meningitis as we are in the known peak transmission period;
 - For every case of meningitis, LP should be done and CSF used for Latex Agglutination and Gram stain; samples should be inoculated into TI bottles for culture at the respective regional laboratories for confirmation.
 - It is mandatory that Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions send samples frozen in cryo-tubes to Tamale Zonal PHL for PCR (following the MenAfriVac campaign)
- We request regions to share this bulletin and subsequent ones with other regional and district staff.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Summary of Reported Cases/ Events: Week 08 (Week ending 22 February 2015)

Disease/ Health Event (suspected/confirmed)	Week 07			Week 08			Cum Week 01—08		
	Cases (Susp.)	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases (Susp.)	Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases (Susp.)	Deaths	CFR (%)
1 AFP (Suspected Polio)	5	0	0.0	3	0	0	22	0	0
2 Acute Haemorrhagic Fever Syndrome	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Adverse Events following Immunization	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0
4 Anthrax	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Acute watery diarrhoea in > 5 years	1,577	0	0.0	1,245	0	0	4,498	0	0
6 Cholera	40	2	5.6	27	0	0	460	2	0.4
7 Dengue fever	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Diarrhoea with blood	91	0	0.0	77	0	0	561	0	0
09 Dracunculiasis (Guinea Worm)	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
10 Influenza-Like Illness	129	0	0.0	135	0	0	1,050	0	0
11 Maternal Deaths	0	0	0.0	4	0	0.0	9	0	0.0
12 Measles	16	0	0.0	9	0	0	74	0	0
13 Meningitis	13	4	30.8	20	1	5	81	13	16
14 Neonatal Tetanus	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	2	0	0
15 Plague	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 Public Health Event of International Concern (PHEIC)	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 Human Rabies	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	2	2	100
18 SARS	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Small Pox	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Yellow fever (Suspected)	7	0	0.0	5	0	0	39	0	0
NATIONAL TOTAL	1,880	6	0.3*	1,521	5	0	6,790	26	

*CFR does not include Maternal Deaths